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Community even under such circumstances provided that: (1) association of UK with EDC satisfactory to him (he has not seen present proposals which will be submitted to Interim EDC Committee on Friday this week and which I believe will be satisfactory to him); and (2) at some appropriate time President Eisenhower make statement that American commitment as member NATO indefinite in duration (Mollet recognizes present impracticability of seeking Senate approval extension NATO commitment to fifty years and would be satisfied with formula as to indefiniteness of commitment suggested in Department's cables on this subject).

"Mollet says he is personally strongly in favor of EDC and EPC provided powerful democratic controls exist on political side but that he can enter into no pledge at this time as to final attitude, which will be influenced by future developments. BRUCE."

I did not include in it some things which I knew he would not wish to have by any chance known to unauthorized persons, such as his secret meeting with Adenauer when the latter was in Paris. As a matter of fact, Adenauer had already told me of it.

Mendès-France had asked to see me and came in this afternoon. He is [redacted] pessimistic about the French economic and financial situation but concerned above all by the Indo-China affair. He thinks the French Government should enter into contact with Ho Chi Minh and try to effect an armistice with the hope of thereafter withdrawing all French Union troops from Indo-China and leaving that area to its fate. This is a simplification of what he had in mind. He realized [redacted] I had nothing to do with such a subject but apparently merely wished to unburden himself. However, his stand with regard to it is well known in France.

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I called Myron Cowen in Brussels to tell him of my conversation with de Staercke. He is leaving there about the 7th of June and we expect to see Dorothy and himself in Paris. He does not yet know when Alger, the new Ambassador, will arrive to replace him.

Preston Grover paid me a visit which was very pleasant, as I always enjoy seeing him.

The Mouchys had a dinner for us with Johnnie Lucinge, Odette Pol Roger (looking very beautiful), Henriette and Michel de Grammont, Madame de Rougemont (who is still very enthusiastic about Washington where she was a great favorite), and Robert de Lesseps (whose lovely Betty is unfortunately in England).

Philippe de Mouchy has a magnificent collection of books and manuscripts, most of which he inherited. Some of his things are unique, such as volume after volume of letters from Madame de Maintenon, including in her own handwriting a description of the death-bed scene of Louis XIV. Many of his manuscripts have never been published or seen by scholars, which is a pity. The enormous accumulation of de Noailles papers has undergone many vicissitudes, such as their partial destruction during the French Revolution, the burning of many of them at the time of the conflagration of the Tuileries, as well as the Germans during the last war using some of them for kindling fires in their country chateau, where all the furniture was broken up or destroyed.

Diane de Mouchy took us after midnight, which seems a strange time to make a call, to see a most remarkable old gentleman who lives in a modern apartment house on Rue Cognac-Jay. He is an Argentine named Ricardo Penon. He seems devoted to Diane and Philippe. I rather think he must be a distant relative of hers through her mother. He is really quite fantastic. Eighty years

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old, small, spry, alert, he lives by himself in a two-story apartment surrounded by various objects which belonged to or had some connection with Madame de Pompadour. In addition, he has [redacted] fine furniture, busts, miniatures, snuff boxes, panelling from Pompadour houses, and a perfect medley of entertaining and curious things. About 2:00 o'clock he whipped out some champagne and forced me to drink about a quart of it. We finally got to bed about 3:30. I felt a bit beaten up but the old gentleman, who seems to receive only at night, would have been good for several more hours. He has no servants and what he does for eating is a mystery, but he insists on dusting his rooms and looking after himself.

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